



SOCCER STAR

SERVING VICTORIAN SOCCER

MacKenzie P.2

Scwab P.3

Sticca P.13

Brian P.7

VOL. 1. No. 11

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1988

FAX: 527-6533

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PRICE: \$1.40

Seven players told to take a shower

REFEREES got tough on State League players on Saturday. No fewer than seven received their marching orders, including last year's Rothmans Medal winner, Paul Harris, who thus forfeited his chance of equalling John Gardiner's and Tommy Cumming's feat of winning the coveted award two years in succession.

Harris was sent off along with Bulleen's Fab Angele by referee John Rutter, who also cautioned three other players.

Evan Venios was busy at Green Gully, where he sent off Gully's Steve McClelland and Croydon's Gordon Flavell, as well showing two other players the yellow card.

Another pair to get their marching orders were Box Hill's Joe Mori and George Campbell at Wembley Park, where Torbert Sorensen also cautioned two more Box Hill players.

Michael Kondogiannis had a comparatively quiet game at Raleigh Reserve, sending off only one player, Maribyrnong's Kevin Innes, and booking two Springvale players.

Heidelberg's 3-0 win over Thomastown didn't require any red cards, but Dennis Voutsinas booked five players.

●For all the details, turn to page 8.



●Steve Jackson's desperate tackle was typical of Preston's fighting approach.

NSL BOSS QUIT: NO REPLACEMENT

THE National League's Executive Director, Stefan Kamasz, of the last five years dropped a bombshell last Thursday when he announced his resignation.

In an interview with the "Australian" newspaper, Kamasz said he didn't think it would be necessary to replace him until July, when the anticipated reorganisation of the ASF is due to take place.

The thought occurs, if the League can manage to get along without an executive director for almost four months, maybe it doesn't need one at all.

What is even more thought-provoking though, is the resounding silence on the part of the League's top brass.

Chairman Sam Papasavas, apart from uttering the usual platitudes about Kamasz' good work on behalf of the League, has not made a statement about the future administration of the League.

And Kamasz' resignation, bear in mind, comes on the heels of that of Steve Speziale, who quit six weeks ago after only eight weeks with the league.

In our issue of February 18, Heidelberg president, Mr Lewis Yionnides, described the NSL as a "Mickey Mouse" league, a description that Kamasz took great exception to.

But doesn't his action in walking out on the League only ten weeks into the season give some point to Yionnides' comment?



●Steve Kamasz.

PRESTON ARE ON THE WAY BACK

PRESTON Makedonia, despite the upheaval of the previous week, served notice that it is poised to fight its way out of its slump with a fighting draw at Chaplin Reserve last Sunday against Sunshine George Cross.

With the committee unable to find a replacement for sacked coach, Ernie Merrick, before Sunday's game, Ron Campbell was asked to take on the job in a caretaker

capacity and a fine job he did too.

Despite going a goal down in unfortunate circumstances, the Preston players refused to bow to the inevitable and gave such a good account of themselves in earning a draw that the George Cross fans were mightily relieved to hear the final whistle.

●Full story on page 5.



Morwell — the sleeping giant — Page 7

Forget about the Kiwis in the World Cup

BEWARE OF FAWKNER

WATCH out for Fawkner.

Okay, none of us could believe that after just two State League games of the 1988 season the club's braintrust would have a brainstrut and sack coach Frank McAleer, nevertheless, it happened.

That knee-jerk reaction took place at Brunswick Juventus a couple of years ago, in fact the coach of Juventus back then, Tommy Traynor, never even got as far as a league game.

The likeable Tommy was given the heave-ho after three Buffalo Cup games!

But remember, that was the same year in which Juventus won the national championship and was quite rightly proclaimed as the best club side in this country.

That tag obviously isn't on offer as far as Fawkner is concerned, but having a look at the quality and depth of new coach Mike Lynn's squad, I'm convinced that Fawkner will finish in the top half of the State League table.

Bugger it, I'll go all the way.

I believe that Fawkner can finish in the top four.

There's no way that you'll convince me that a strike force of the potency of Robbie Gullen, Dougie Brown and Peter Verechia can't beat hell out of every other side in the league.

Currently, Dean Hennessy, Robert

By
CRAIG
MacKENZIE



Ferla, George Traikovski and Geal Stenson are sidelined through injury but once they're back in action, Fawkner has, on paper at least, a very, very competitive side.

Fawkner won its first points of the season last Saturday when it defeated Morwell Falcons 2-0 with both goals coming from Verechia.

Fawkner now is eight points behind the table-topping Heidelberg.

I'm willing to bet that by the season's end that gap will have narrowed.

★ ★ ★

GEORGIE FOR TOP SIX

I've got a \$50 bet that Sunshine-George Cross finishes in the first six in the National League this season.

The bet is with a State League player.

It was made in the Golden Age Hotel in the city last week and after offering me the bet and having it accepted, the player in question started to shudder at the thought that I'd publicise the bet and name him in this column.

A Whisky Mac solved the problem (one full ounce of Scotch and a full ounce of Stone's Green Ginger Wine) but being the bastard I am, I'm writing about this anyway, knowing that he's reading this and sweating on me naming him.

You see, he's scared of the ramifications.

He thinks that those fervent Georgie fans will give him a hard time.

Tell you what, ex-Albion Rovers player, another Whisky Mac wouldn't go down badly at all....

★ ★ ★

YOU can forget about New Zealand as a major hurdle in our path toward the 1990 World Cup Finals in Italy.

Take it from me, there's that much trouble over there that it would take a miracle for the Kiwis to get their act together in time for the qualifying games.

Take last week, for example. Eddie Edge resigned as assistant to Kiwi coach Kevin Fallon.

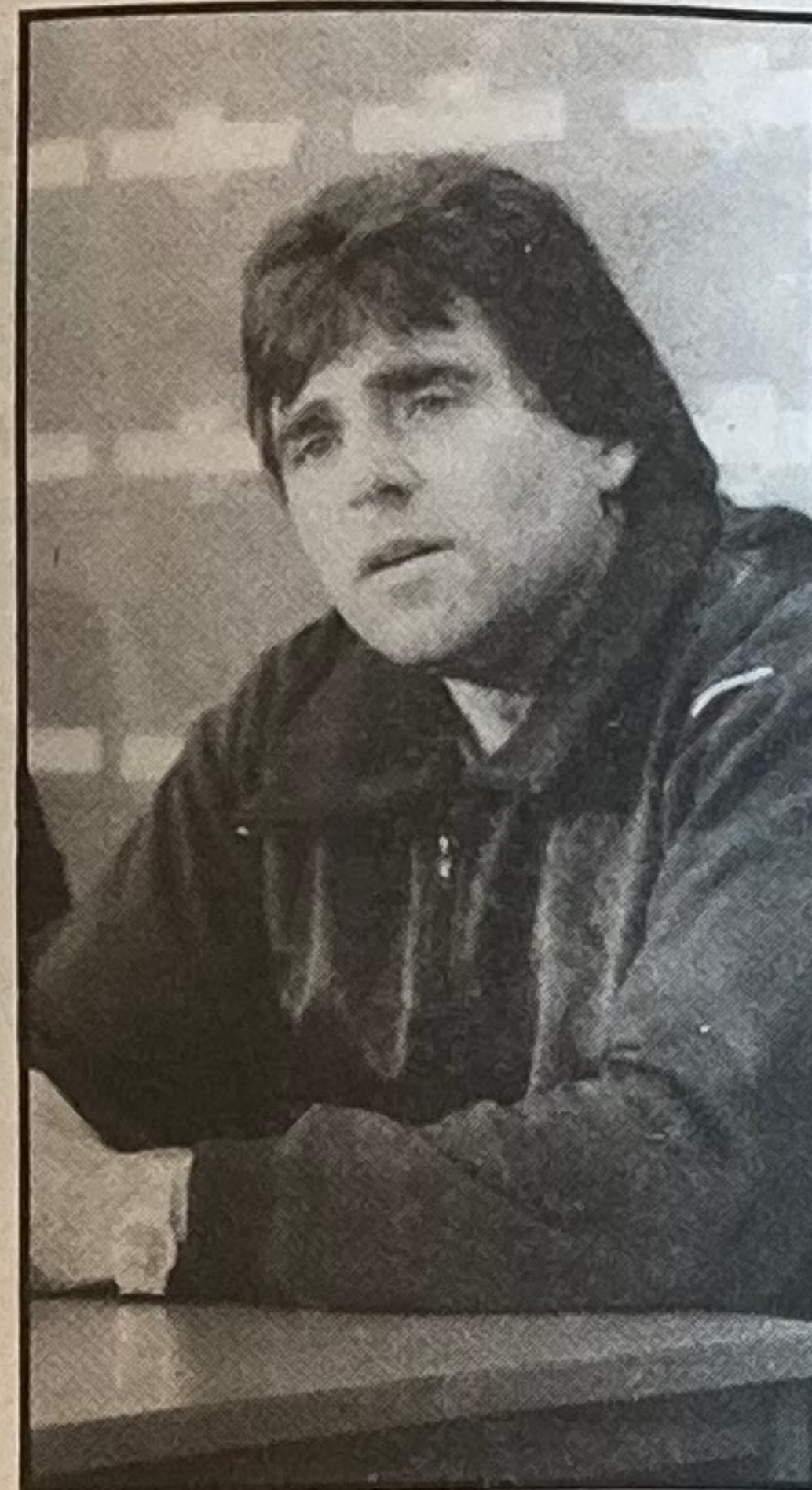
Disagreement over a laundry bill! TRUE.

To make matters worse, the Press in NZ reported Edge's resignation before the soccer hierarchy there got wind of it.

And the NZ Press is hounding Fallon, openly calling for his sacking.

And what is the response of those that hired him?

This is what NZ Football Association chairman Warwick Gendall was



● Kevin Fallon

reported as saying in an edition of The Evening Post last week.

Read it carefully, you might be able to read between the lines!

"We assured him (Fallon) that his job was secure when we employed him.

"Barring exceptional circumstances of course, but so far we have had no reason to terminate it (Fallon's contract) because of a newspaper report. "Fallon is a person who appears different to different people.

"Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, and it varies.

"If Mr Edge has resigned, as I hear through Press reports, then I will have to wait until Fallon puts in his report."

St. Albans found striker Popovski in the street

MEKO HOLDINGS' LOSS IS DINAMO GAIN

HOW'S this for a stroke of luck?

Just before the season started, St Albans Dinamo coach Tony Vrzina was walking down a street in Thomastown when a young fellow recognised him and said hello.

"You must have something to do with soccer."

"Do you play?" said Vrzina.

"Yeah, I used to play."

"Where?"

"Meko Holdings, but they don't exist any more."

"They've folded up."

"What position?"

"I was a forward."

"Did you score many?"

"Matter of fact, I was the team's top scorer."

"You want to try out with St Albans?"

"Sure, why not?"

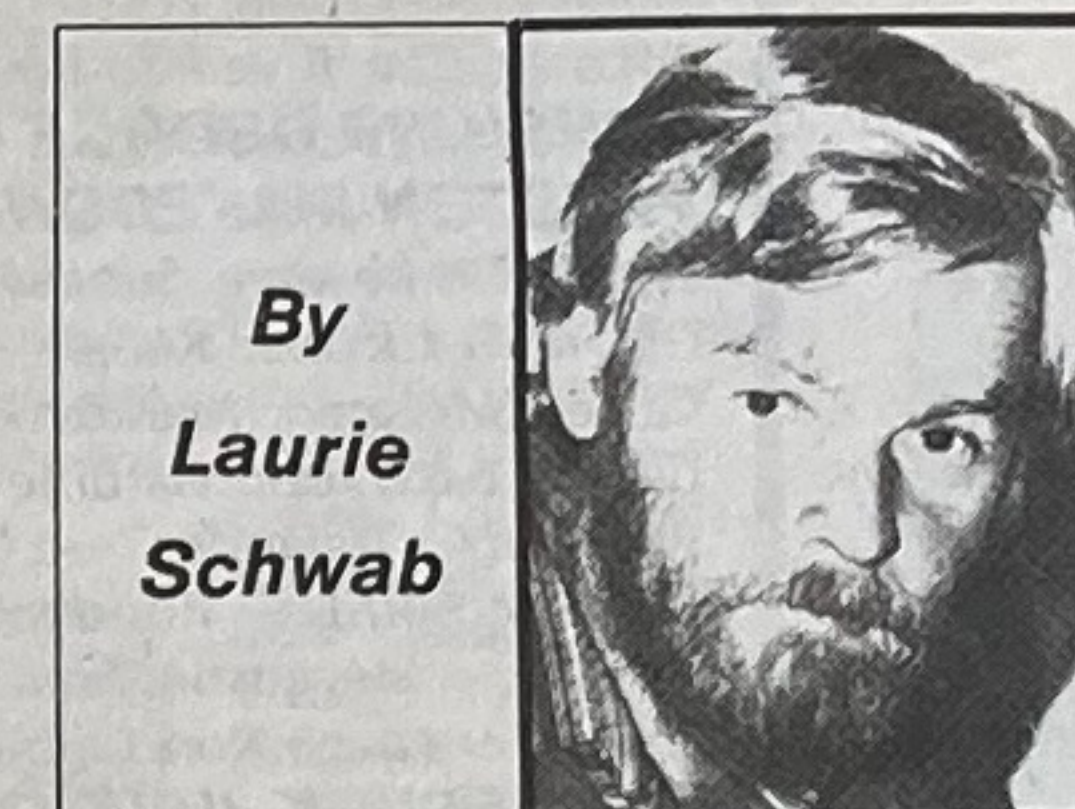
That is how Bill Popovski stepped up from the Amateur and Industrial League to the Victorian State League.

In the second round of the season, he scored in the 78th minute to give St Albans Dinamo a 2-1 lead over Green Gully before Steve McLelland equalised at 2-2.

In round four he came on as a substitute in the 62nd minute and, 10 minutes later, scored the goal that clinched a 2-1 victory over Polonia.

"After we lost Dennis Morovic and Goran Runje among others, no-one gave St Albans a chance but after finding Popovski and with all the other players doing well, we've managed to have a good start — and we'll get even better," Vrzina said.

The big news at the weekend was that Vrzina



By
Laurie
Schwab

has recruited Vlaho Macan, 28, who played more than 200 games for Hajduk Split and has, more recently, been playing for Malaga in Spain.

He was a stopper at Malaga but played as a striker with Hajduk, where Vedran Rozic was among his teammates.

"Macan wanted to join a National League club but by the time he returned to Yugoslavia from Spain, the Australian season had already started," Vrzina said.

"I was born in Split and I have friends there."

"One of them rang me and asked what I could

do to help Macan get a foothold here, so I offered to accommodate him at Dinamo until he gets the chance to move up into the NSL.

"We will have him for at least six months and he should be one of the best players on show here. Malaga paid about \$100,000 for him when it bought him from Hajduk."

BULLS AT THE GATE

ZORAN Ilioski believes that one of the reasons Makedonia has started the season so badly is that former coach Ernie Merrick tried to play British-style soccer with a team of continental-style players.

Many Makedonia officials are of the same opinion.

Look at the talented ball-players Merrick had at his disposal: Ilioski, Goce Dimovski, Steve Gojevic, George Petrov, Con Opasins, Zoran Tasevski, Steve Smith, John Stewart, Ron Campbell, albeit he was out injured until just before Merrick was sacked. There was, also George Slifkas who wasn't given much of a chance.

Those players are more than capable of holding possession of the ball with a thoughtful, inter-passing approach. Instead Makedonia's play was reminiscent of the bull at the gate.



● Tony Vrzina

charging, falling down, charging, falling down.

Then there was the Dimovski affair. The man was absolutely brilliant towards the end of 1987. This year he has done little. Was it because of friction between him and Merrick? "They did not like each other," says Ilioski, who holds the record for the most matches played in the NSL.

They are our all-star Socceroo team

SOCCEROO ALL-STARS

By Laurie Schwab

FEAST OF SKILL

AFTER the Olympic qualifying program, let's have a look at Socceroo all-stars, chosen according to the number of matches played since the formation of the Australian Soccer Federation: Alan Maher (39) — Doug Utjesenovic (61), Peter Wilson (115), Manfred Schaefer (73), Graham Jennings (67) — Jimmy Rooney (100), Ray Richards (60), Johnny Warren (62) — Attila Abonyi (88), John Kosmina (100), Adrian Alston (62).

These totals take in all matches, not just full internationals.

On full internationals alone, Alan Davidson and Jennings would tie for the left-back position, with 32 games each and Ray Baartz with 49 full internationals would take the place of Richards who has only 32.

Charlie Yankos, with a total of 70 games for Australia, has more than defenders Utjesenovic and Jennings but does not get into the all-star line-up because he plays as sweeper, the position occupied by Peter Wilson (115 appearances).



● Alan Davidson



● Oscar Crino

SOME of the finest players in Australia will be on show at Schintler Reserve on Sunday when Footscray JUST takes on Marconi: Oscar Crino, Ernie Tapai, Drago Deankovic, Vlado Bozinovski, Zdravko Lujic, Frank Farina, Gerry Gomez, Peter Katholos (if he's given a chance), Tommy McCulloch, Ian Grey-Zlatko Nastevski, etc. etc.

No-one gave JUST much of a chance when it met defending league champion APIA in the first round of the season, yet JUST triumphed 3-0.

Trouble is, JUST then found it enormously difficult to score goals, although it dominated most matches in which it played. Marconi, on the other hand, has Farina who scores all the time.

He will provide the biggest test yet for Gary van Egmond whose fine form as a stopper has attracted the attention of Frank Arok who has promised to include him in the next Socceroo training squad.

Crino should prove the midfield maestro while Gerry Gomez, one of my favourite players, should be Marconi's main driving force if he is not shackled to the defence.

Marconi was hammered by Hellas on a previous visit to Melbourne and I feel it won't do much better against JUST which should have most of the possession.

Goals will come for JUST if a few more players support the attack and get into the penalty area.

It's no good leaving Lujic and Warren Spink to battle away on their own.

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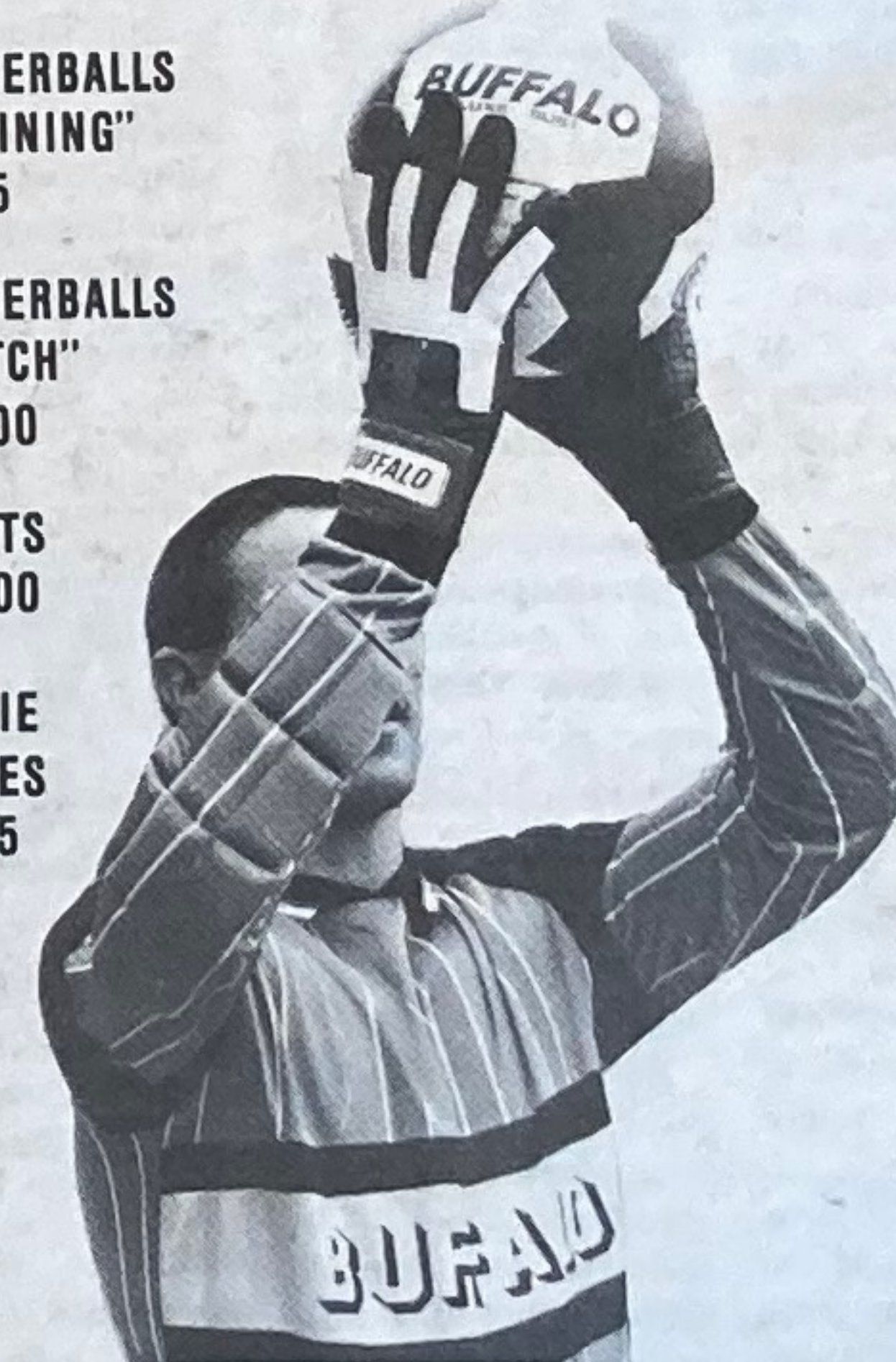
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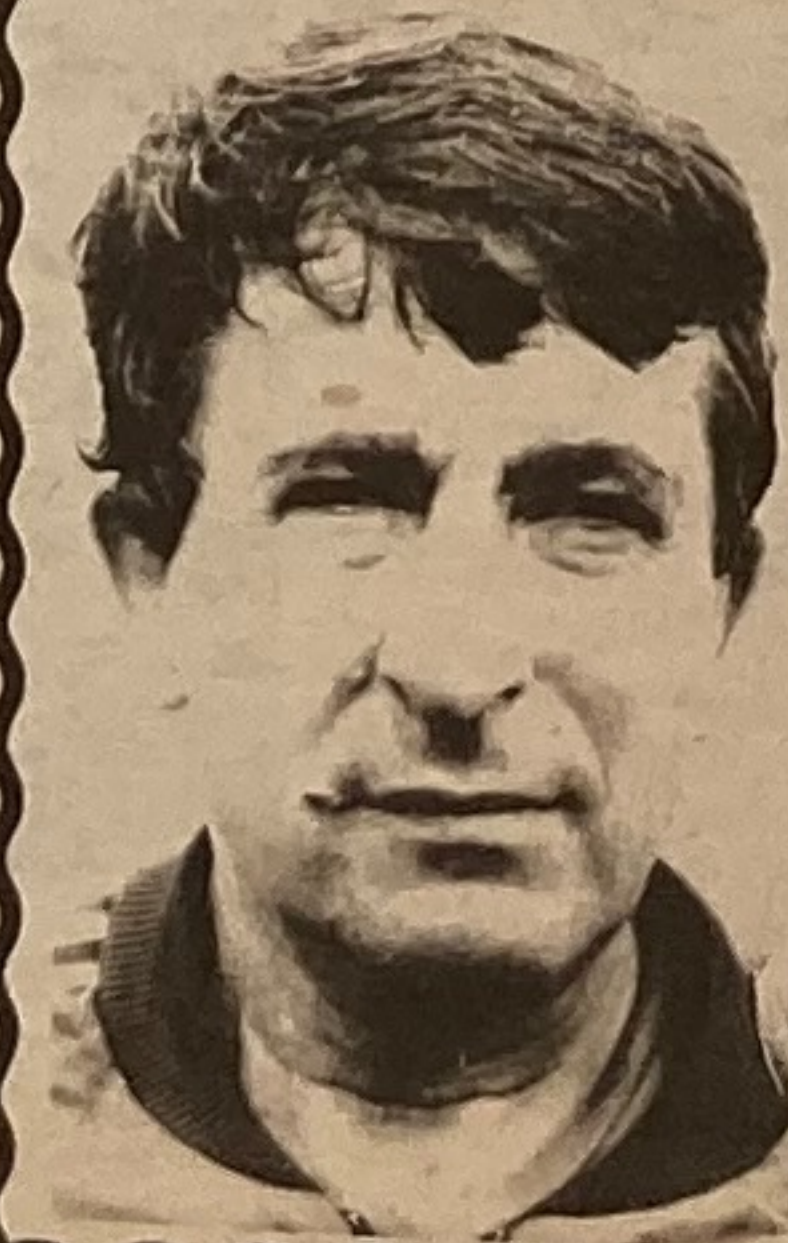
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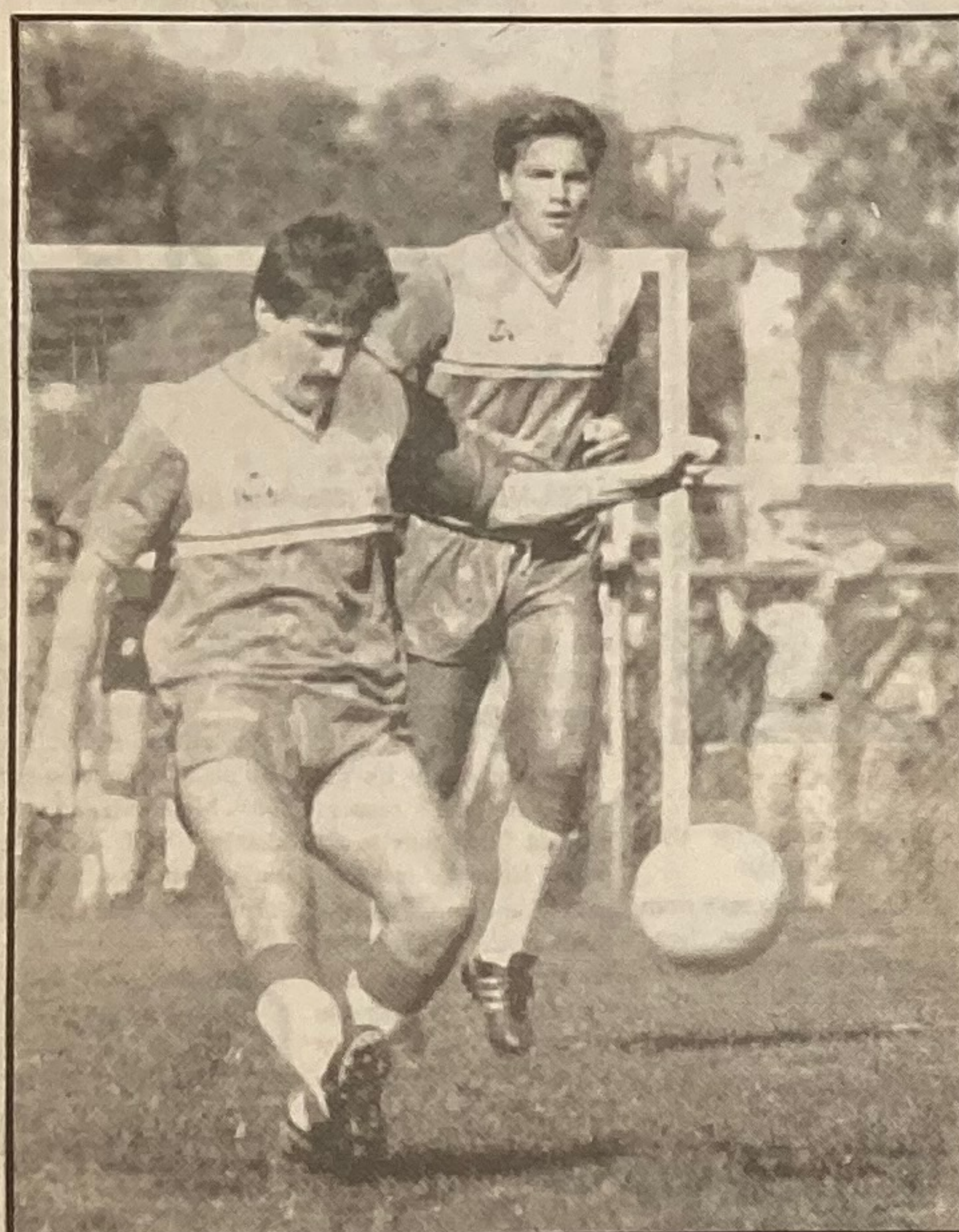
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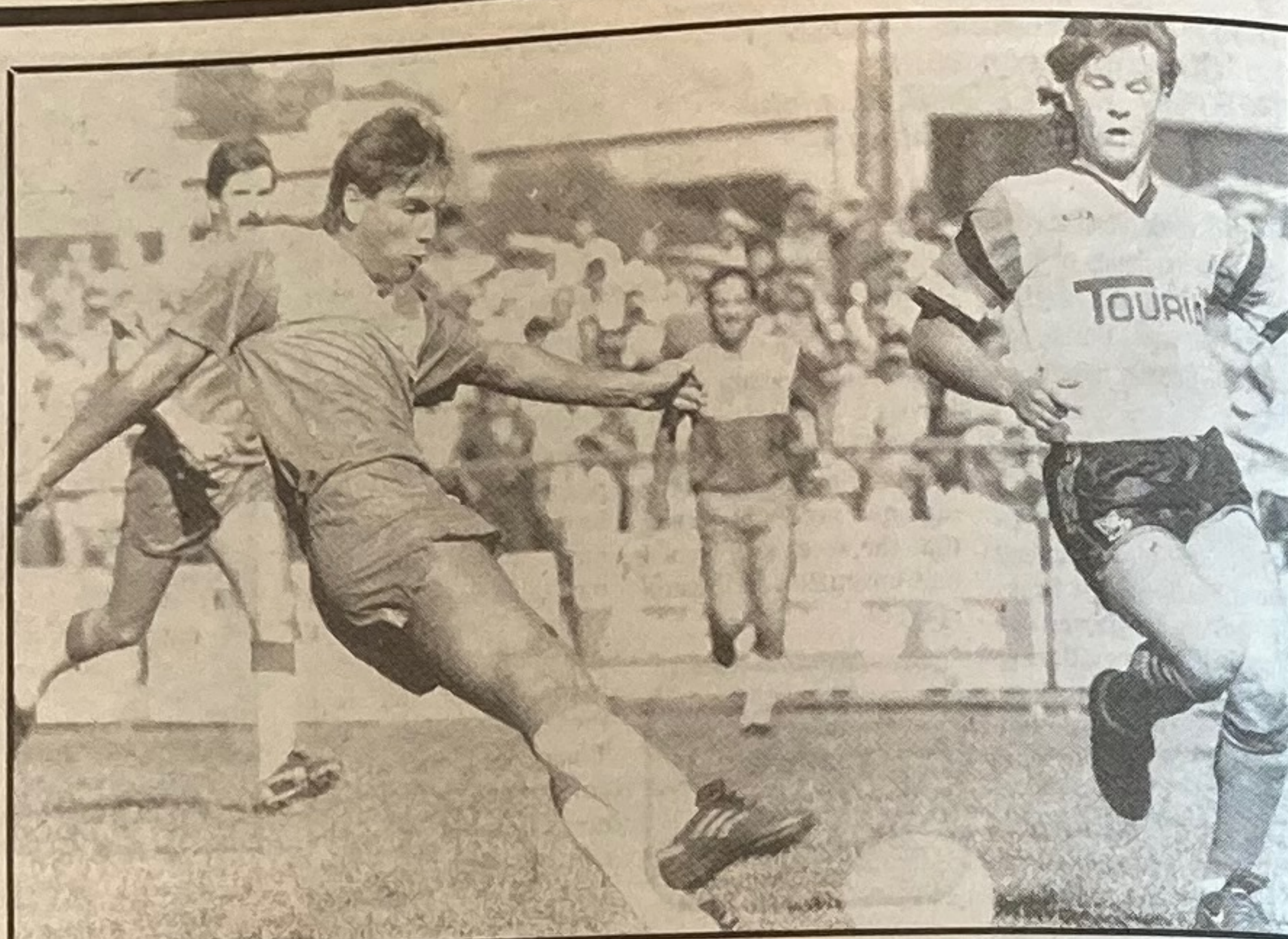


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How your club stands — Page 12



● Gary Clark



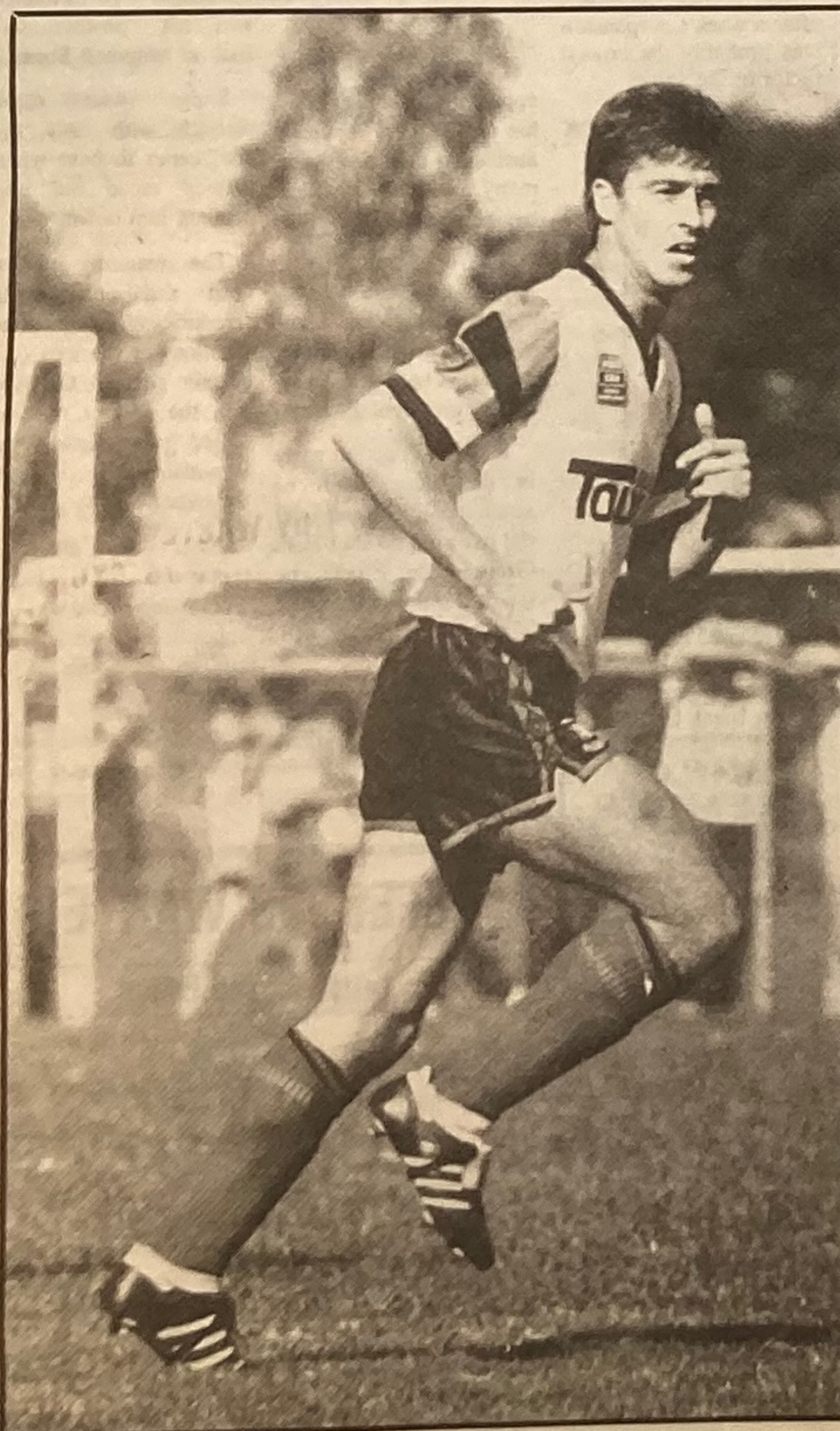
● Robert Markovac shoots for goal.

PHOTOS

All the pictures in "SOCCER STAR" are available for sale.

For details of sizes and prices, ring the

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● Preston's caretaker-coach Ron Campbell.



● Preston Goalkeeper Phil Traianides saves from Mark Lennon.



● Preston's John Stewart and Georgie's Shaun Parton in an aerial ballet.

MORWELL THE SLEEPING GIANT

'We're going through a horror patch' — says McLachlan

If there is a sleeping giant in the State League, it is surely Morwell Falcons.

Yet its position on the ladder, second bottom would seem to indicate that it still has a long way to go to reach its expected peak.

Coach Bobby McLachlan agrees. But there is absolutely no sign of panic despite a record that reads: played five, won none, drawn two, lost three, scored one goal and conceded five for a not so grand total of two points.

McLachlan never has been one to let the setbacks of soccer life get the better of him.

He has a joke for every occasion which probably is as good a way as any to battle stress.

Not that he admits to feeling any pressure at the moment, although one State League coach — Frank McAleer, of Fawcner — has already bitten the dust.

By
BOB
BRIAN



although there is still a long way to go before it is time to worry.

CONFIDENCE

"I have every confidence in the players," says McLachlan.

And with the likes of Gerry Bennett, Gerry Clarke, Kenny Drakeford, Emile Bruns, Effie Cassar, Stan Webster, Harry Bingham, Ian Stinton, John Sukaluk, Jamie Doyle and Dave Reynolds battling it out for places, there is no shortage of talent or competition.

"I never like making predictions as they turn out to be wrong too often, but I have to be confident that we will get out of the rut soon," says McLachlan.

"I have a lot of good players.

"OK, so things aren't going our way at the moment, but that can't last.

"We just need a fair share of luck.

"Look at Sunshine George Cross in the National League last season.

"Nothing went right for them and just about everyone was tipping them for relegation this year.

"But look at them now.

"They are getting their share of the breaks and they are now making a lot of people eat crow.

"Our luck will turn and then we will start getting the results we deserve," says McLachlan.

FORTUNATE

McLachlan is fortunate in that he has a committee and a president, Don Di Fabrizio, who have a thoroughly professional attitude towards running a club.

Of course, Morwell Falcons is in a rather unique position.

Situated two and a half hours drive from Melbourne, it has always had problems getting the players it wants.

So it has had to choose carefully and treat them with respect.

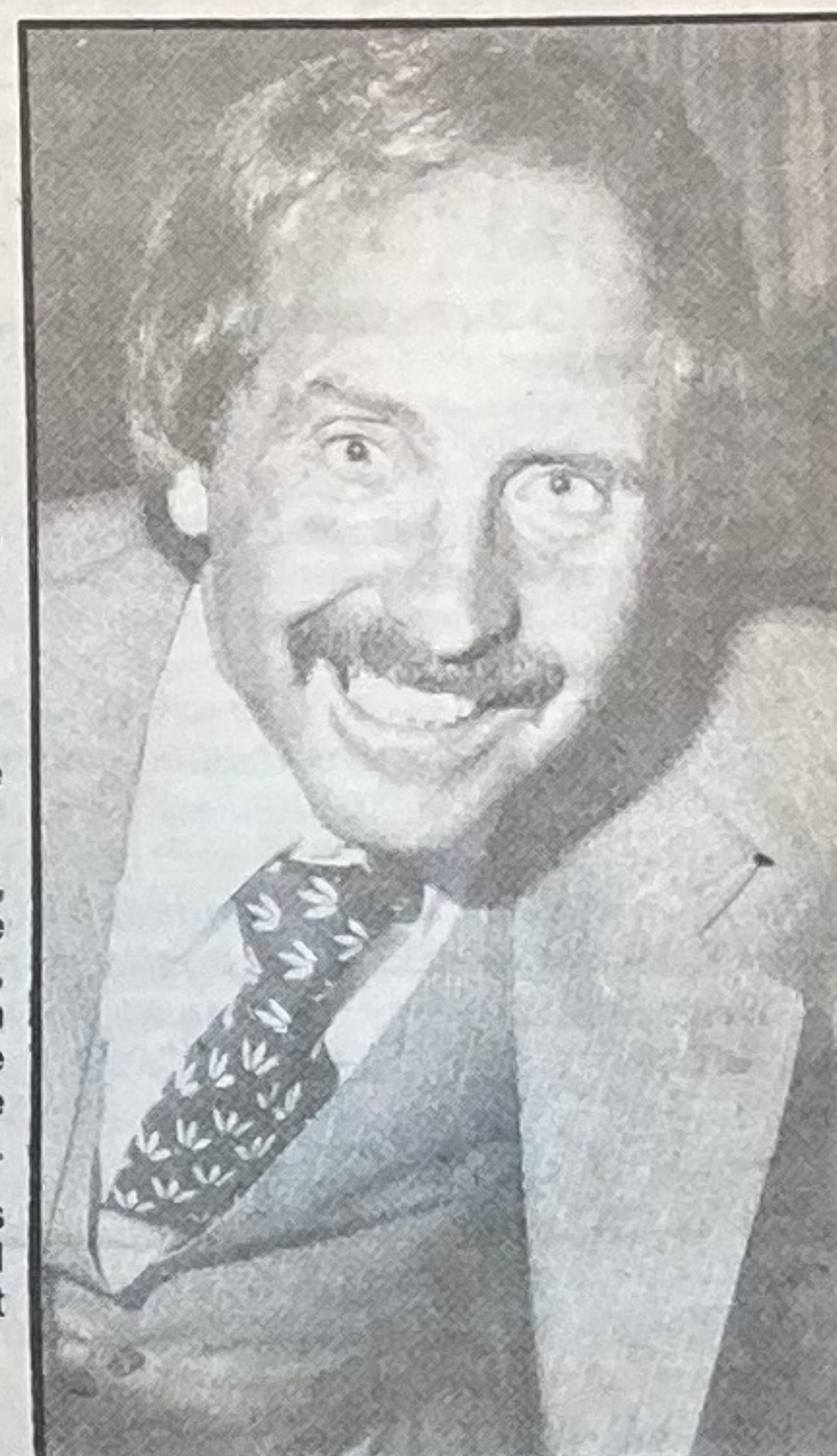
This has built a good spirit within the club and brought players and supporters closer together.

Having a half a team training one night a week in Morwell and one night in Melbourne while the other half trains both nights in Morwell is another complication.

But it took Di Fabrizio around five years to persuade McLachlan to take over at Morwell and he has great faith in the cheerful Scot.

McLachlan, for his part, has a great deal of respect for "the boss", which increases his determination to do well this year.

With the six bottom clubs facing relegation this year, it could be said that Morwell is currently in the danger zone



● Bobby McLachlan... "We have been playing well. I have no complaints."

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SOCCER STAR is published every Thursday by Soccer Star Pty. Ltd., incorporated in Victoria.

Distributed in Victoria by Magdiss Pty. Ltd., 250 Spencer St. Melbourne 3000.

EDITOR: Les Shorrock.

Address all correspondence to: Soccer Star, 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.

Printer & Publisher: Les Shorrock.

18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.

Printed by Streamline Printers (03) 417-2766

Proprietor Soccer Star Pty. Ltd. 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.

Art/Typesetting — Butterfly Art Creations
Phone: 882-2231

"Soccer Star" regrets that it is not possible for it to verify information other than that conveyed in editorial content of the publication. Although "Soccer Star" uses its best endeavours to ensure the accuracy of everything it publishes, the Fair Trading Act 1985 requires "Soccer Star" to disclaim any belief in the truth or falsity of information which is published in other than editorial content.



● Gerry Bennett... battling it out.



● Emile Bruns... no shortage of talent.



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DETAILS ROUND FIVE

NORTHCOTE CITY 0 v. OAKLEIGH 0

At John Cain Reserve, Northcote. Referee Chris Bambridge. Cautions: Kardamitis (Oak.).

NORTHCOTE: Turudia 7 — Leonardos 6, J. Constantinou 7, Palmaricciotti 7, Kouremenos 6, Woodall 8, Thodis 7 — Ramos 5 — (P. Constantinou half time). N. Constantinou 7. Coach: Roy McLaren.
OAKLEIGH: Kardamitis 6 — Nicolaidis 6, Pozitis 6, Halford 8 — Guscic 6, Crutzmacher 6, Livingstone 7, Vardaxis 6, Andriotis 6, (Stamitis 67th). Ward 7. Ross 6. Coach: Takis Sviagos.

Woodale (N) 3, Guscic (O) 2, Halford (O) 1.

HEIDELBERG 3 (Raynes 45th, Anastasiadis 65th, Morovic 91st) THOMASTOWN 0

at Olympic Village, Saturday, Crowd 1000. Referee D. Voutsines.
HEIDELBERG: Banovic 6 — Fraser 7, Outsalkis 6, Patiniotis 7, Kanesoulis 7 — Pappas 6 (Bordignon 85th), Lucchesi 7, Valentine 7, Raynes 9 — Anastasiadis 8, Theodosopoulos 5 (Morovic 85th). Coach Terry Hennessy.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi 7 — Mihalidis 6, Pianalto 5, Higgins 7, Arcoraci — Gougherty 6, Di Martino 6 (McMillan 70th), Lewis 6, Ragusa 5 — Athersych 5, McGuinness 5. Coach Bill Murray.

Best player award: Raynes (H) 3, Anastasiadis (H) 2, Patiniotis (H) 1.
RINGWOOD CITY 2 (Middlemast 15th, Nijholt 22nd)
WESTERN SUBURBS 1 (Esposito pen. 89th)

at Jubilee Park, Saturday. Referee M. Gaut.

RINGWOOD CITY: Jenssen 7 — May 7, Nolan 8, Meyer 7, Cumming 7, — Makin 6, Nelson 6, Nijholt 7 — Davie 6, Middlemast 7, Corvan 6. Coach Rob Nelson. R

WESTERN SUBURBS: Hatzilazarou 9 — Markovski 6, Kountouri 6, Dimovski 7, Esposito 7 — Kagioglou 7, Kopsaltis 6, Hamill 7 — Tuck 7, Metaxes 6, Vo 8. Coach Jim Condlis.

Best player award: Hatzilazarou (W) 3, Vo (W) 2, Nijholt (R) 1.
CAULFIELD CITY 4 (Goutzioulis 55th, 71st, 80th)

ALAGIOZIDIS 90th

BULLEEN (Trogrlic 89th)

at Princes Park, Saturday. Referee I. Rutter.

CAULFIELD CITY: Koletsos 7 — Bitsonis 7, Harris (sent off), Fattore 8, Filipou 8 — Griffin 8, Alagiozidis 8, Boutisianis 8 — Goutzioulis 9, Hamakiotis 8 (Sahinidis 81st), Cozzella 8. Coach Rocco Ille.

BULLEEN: Contini 6 — Ruccia 6, Boin 5, Romano 6 (Curcio HT), Curulli 7 — Angele (sent off), Trogrlic 5, Boarotto 5 — Bozikas 5, Keenan 5, D'Amico 5 (Verratti 75th). Coach Jim Rooney.

Best Player award: Goutzioulis (C) 3, Griffin (C) 2, Curulli (B) 1.
FAWKNER 2 (Verechia 33rd, 52nd)

MORWELL FALCONS 0

at Smith Reserve, Saturday. Referee J. Santa Isabel.

FAWKNER: Wilson 7 — Walsh 6 (Rizza 75th), Schipano 6, Henderson 7, Angele 7 — Sabatino 7, Cullen 6, Verechia 8 (Orlando 70th) — Stoim 6, Brown 7, Jankulovski 7. Coach Mike Lynn.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds 6 — Bennett 6, Gotis 6, Drakeford 7, Bruns 7 — Jim Doyle 6 (Jeff Doyle 60th), Webster 8, Clarke 7 — Sokoluk 7, E. Cassar 7, Stirton 6. Coach Bob McLachlan.

Best player award: Webster (MW) 3, Verrechi (F) 2, Angele (F) 1.
MARIBYRNONG 2 (Warszawski 85th, Baron 92nd, pen.)

SPRINGVALE CITY 2 (Bozic 70th, Morrey 75th)

at Raleigh Reserve, Saturday. Referee M. Kondogiannis.

MARIBYRNONG: Kostrazewa 6 — Lipiarski 7, Stojewski 6, Innes (Sent off), Smolarek 6 — Watson 6, Chetcuti 7, Lakic 6 — Przbyla 6, Warszawski 6, de Bono 5. Coach Jim McIntyre.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Boland 7 — Rau 8, Adams 7, Bissinger 7, White 8 (Bryden 80th) — Kraal 7, Bozic 7, Bell 7 — Hennessy 7, Findley 7, Morrey 8. Coach Gus MacLeod.

Best player award: White (S) 3, Rau (S) 2, Morrey (S) 1.

BOX HILL 0

ST. ALBANS 2 (Duzel 77th, Kelic 82nd)

at Wembley Park, Saturday. Referee T. Sorensen.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 6 — McMorrow 7, Davidson 6, J. Mori (sent off), Roodhouse 8 — Campbell (sent off), Burton 8, Brimmer 7 — McBride 8, Aretis 7 (McDaid 80th), McAleer 7 (D. Mori 70th). Coach John Brown.

ST. ALBANS: Grgic 6 — Dragovic 6, Kuzman 7, Colina 7, Juric 7 — Gagula 7, Matocic 6, Duzel 7 — Kelic 7, Culina 8, Rastocic 6. Coach Tony Vrzina.

Best player award: Culina (St. A) 3, Burton (BH) 2, McBride (BH) 1.

GREEN GULLY 1 (Douglas 51st)

CROYDON CITY 1 (French 65th)

at Green Gully Reserve, Saturday. Referee E. Venios.

GREEN GULLY: Sant 6 — Napoli 7, Cannell 7, McClelland (sent off), Grimaud 6 — O'Donnell 7, Wilson 7, Menyhart 6 (Cutler 80th) — Douglas 7, Quigley 8, Smart 5. Coach Willie Vassallo.

CROYDON CITY: M. Runje 7 — Brown 6, Redmond 7, McIntosh 7, Langsbury 5 (van Egmond 53rd) — Brack 5, Flavell (sent off), J. Campbell 5 — G. Runje 5, Humble 7, French 7. Coach Miron Bleiberg.

Best player award: Quigley (G.G.) 3, French (C) 2, Douglas (G.G.) 1.

PACIFIC TIMBER STATE LEAGUE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HEIDELBERG UTD	5	5	0	0	13	2	10
NORTHCOTE CITY	5	4	1	0	9	1	9
CROYDON CITY	5	3	2	0	5	1	9
GREEN GULLY	5	2	3	0	7	4	7
St Albans	5	3	1	1	8	7	7
Caulfield City	5	1	3	1	5	3	5
Maribyrnong	5	2	1	2	7	7	5
Springvale City	5	1	3	1	3	5	5
Thomastown	5	2	1	2	2	5	5
Box Hill	5	1	2	2	6	7	4
Bulleen	5	1	2	2	3	6	4
Ringwood City	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
Fawkner	5	1	0	4	2	5	2
Oakleigh	5	0	2	3	2	6	2
Morwell Falcons	5	0	2	3	1	5	2
Western Suburbs	5	1	0	4	4	10	2

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northcote City	5	4	1	0	18	5	9
Box Hill	5	4	0	1	21	6	8
Caulfield City	5	4	0	1	18	6	8
Green Gully	5	4	0	1	13	6	8
Fawkner	5	3	1	1	10	6	7
Morwell Falcons	5	3	1	1	8	5	7
Heidelberg Utd	5	2	2	1	13	13	6
Bulleen	5	2	1	2	11	8	5
Maribyrnong	5	2	1	2	10	10	5
St Albans	5	2	1	2	9	12	5
Ringwood City	5	2	0	3	13	12	4
Thomastown	5	1	2	2	9	14	4
Croydon City	5	1	0	4	3	6	2
Western Suburbs	5	1	0	4	5	21	2
Springvale City	5	0	0	5	2	16	0
Oakleigh	5	0	0	5	4	21	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4. Pappas (Heid)	Przbyla (Mar)	6. Culina (St Alb)
Nijholt (Ring)	Ramox (North)	Hatzilazarou (Wests)
3. Goutzioulis (Daul)	Theodosopoulos (H)	Lucchesi (Heid)
Duzel (St. Alb)	Thodis (North)	Warszawski (Mar)
G. Runje (Croyd)	Trogrlic (Bull)	Quigley (G.G.)
2. Anastasiadis (Heid)	Warszawski (Mar)	5. Banovic (Heid)

STATE LEAGUE Best Player Award

8. Higgins (Thom)	7. Ramos (North)	6. Culina (St Alb)
9. Ramos (North)	M. Runje (Croy)	Hatzilazarou (Wests)
10. Runje (Croy)		Lucchesi (Heid)



THOMASTOWN '88

● Back Row, left to right: Andy Higgins, Frank Arcoraci, George Mihos, Mike Filippetto, Norman Dougherty, Nino Ragusa, Gaetano di Martino, George McMillan.
Brendan Coyle, Bobby McGuinness, Paul Lewis, Maro Raponi, Russell Athersych, Robert Pianalto, John Mahalidis.

HEIDELBERG GOES MARCHING ON

- RINGWOOD SACKS NELSON
- HARRIS BLOWS MEDAL
- MacLEOD BLOWS TOP

HEIDELBERG opened up a one-point breathing space at the head of the State League with its fifth win as Northcote hiccuped slightly and dropped a home point to lowly Oakleigh.

However, Heidelberg's testing time might be about to begin.

The Bergers have had the luxury of four games at home out of the opening five, and they were mostly against clubs not expected to mount a strong challenge for the championship.

This week will be much harder, with Heidelberg

up against a Croydon team that is well organised at the back and has conceded only one goal in the campaign.

Croydon had a good result on Saturday, drawing at Green Gully to keep third spot.

But it had better beware... besides the menace of John Anastasiadis, there is now another danger man at Heidelberg, by the name of Billy Raynes.

Just ask Thomastown, every time Raynes got the ball there was consternation in the Toms' defence.

This game will still go ahead on Sunday, despite a request by both clubs to have it brought forward to Saturday, to avoid the Greek Easter.

The VSF said no to the request, apparently for the sake of the Pools and the clubs aren't happy about it.

State League Preview By BRIAN JAMES

Morwell will start improving soon, and this could be the day. Green Gully will be without strong man Steve McClelland, who was sent off against Croydon City.

Caulfield's elation at its big win over Bulleen was clouded by the dismissal of Rothmans Medal winner Paul Harris, one of the fairest men in the game.

Referee John Rutter also sent off Bulleen's Fab

Angele and Caulfield spokesman George Zafiropoulos is still seething with anger over both decisions.

"Neither deserved to be sent off," he told us, "the trouble with refereeing in the State League is that it is too inconsistent. Some referees let players get away with murder, others lean the other way, like this fellow."

Still even without Paul Harris Caulfield should carry too many guns for Western Suburbs, even at Ralph Reserve.

A coach who would agree with those remarks by Zafiropoulos I am sure is the usually genial Gus MacLeod who was spitting chips after his Springvale City had drawn with Maribyrnong.

"By my watch," he says, "the game had gone 96 minutes when referee Kondogiannis awarded Maribyrnong the penalty that saved the point. I reckon the referee was enjoying the game so much that he forgot the time," says Gus, no doubt with tongue in cheek.

Springvale plays Box Hill, another club that incurred a heavy penalty last week.

Referee Torben Sorensen sent off not one but two Box Hill players, George Campbell and Joe Mori, as well as waving the yellow card at Barry Burton and Jim McBride.

This is Springvale's first

home game, Ross Reserve having been closed for renovation work. Despite last week's setback, Springvale has managed to garner a point a game and MacLeod is not displeased with his team's effort so far. Liverpool played the first five games away from home too, Gus and look where they finished!

Another team that is far better than its League position would indicate is Fawkner and it will be too strong for Bulleen, which seems to have problems in all departments.

Ringwood City which sacked coach Rob Nelson on Monday after the team's dismal showing against Doncaster Rovers in the Dockerty Cup visits Caloola Reserve, Sunday: Western Suburbs v CAULFIELD CITY at Ralph Reserve, Croydon City v Heidelberg (draw) at Town Park, Thomastown v Maribyrnong at Partridge Reserve, SPRINGVALE CITY v Box Hill at Ross Reserve.

Chelsea hold Boronia

VICTORIAN DIVISION FOUR

BY a combination of good luck and good management both sides kept their goals intact in the scoreless draw between Boronia and newly promoted Chelsea at Thomas Reserve, Edithvale on Saturday.

Boronia's performance in this first match of the season provoked angry reaction from coach Ian Williamson who castigated his charges severely for not operating all that has been taught in training sessions.

The match was a tough tackle between two basically very good sides who will be amongst the contenders for the top four 4th Victorian Division places this season.

Scottish referee Jim Shields had few problems and only served one yellow card to each side for what appeared to be minor offences.

Boronia's Siro Amoretti and Craig White had to retire injured during this hard fought encounter. Jack combined well with David Fairburn and between them added another three goals — one to Jack and two to Fairburn. Another tough match is on the

cards at B.V. Jones Reserve next Saturday when Boronia meets the merged East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City club who won their first match 3-0.

Both received treatment for injury but escaped what might have been red card attention.

Dino Milesevic celebrated his return to the Boronia fold by being voted "Man of the Match" by the Knox Tavern Supporters Club with Gary Hobson and Gary Radcliffe filling 2nd and 3rd spots.

Reserves "Man of the Match" was Brett Clarke followed by David Fairburn and David Jillings in a 5-0 win.

Jillings opened his side's account at 28 minutes to celebrate his return to competition after a medically dictated year's rest.

Young John Forbes followed with the second goal at 38 minutes.

With half an hour to go Scottish recruit, Robert Jack, replaced Damien Georgehegan. Jack combined well with David Fairburn and between them added another three goals — one to Jack and two to Fairburn. Another tough match is on the

cards at B.V. Jones Reserve next Saturday when Boronia meets the merged East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City club who won their first match 3-0.

VICTORIAN LEAGUE ONE

Knox City: C. MacKay, M. Stoffels, Loy Saisi, N. Pate, R. Sinclair, G. Bakker, H. McCann, N. Murray, P. Luteens, P. Jamieson, D. Brogan, M. Wild, Luc. Shisi, D. Nelson.

Dandenong: C. Kovac, G. Bannan, G. Porter, S. Lawson, G. Johnson, C. McPhee, K. Swinscoe, T. Carmichael, A. McCormick, J. Donnelly, D. Wilson, J. Symonds, N. McCormick.

In a closely fought-out game, Dandenong edged out Knox to win by the only goal scored by Jimmy Donnelly in the 55th minute.

Knox probably had the clearer chances to score with D. Brogan forcing the dandy keeper to pull of great saves on two occasions.

Best players were: Dandenong — Swinscoe, Porter, Kovac, Knox — Sinclair, Brogan, Stoffels.



● O. Billy Raynes

DOCKERTY CUP 1st ROUND

RINGWOOD C 1 (D.G.) DONCASTER ROVERS 1 (SPICER)
Ringwood won 5-4 on penalties.

DONCASTER ROVERS

H. Graham, J. Pcovski, M. Tsambikos, N. Skinner, I. Humble, R. Tolmie, G. Talia, R. Nicolidis, J. Twine, N. Fernandes, P. Spicer, F. Robb, M. Seward.

RINGWOOD

C. Blackley, P. May, D. Nolan, H. Meyer, J. Cumming, C. Makin, R. Nelson, J. Nijholt, J. Davie, C. Middlemast, J. Corvan, C. Whitehouse, J. Marks.

In the first main round of the Dockerty Cup, State League Ringwood was outclassed by an aggressive Doncaster Rovers team.

Ringwood began the game with some skilful moves but found it difficult to get into stride because of tight marking by Humble, Skinner and Tsambikos in the Rovers defence.

Ringwood became frustrated with its lack of penetration of the Doncaster defence and pushed

up Robbie Nelson from midfield.

With two minutes to go Paul Spicer seized on a defensive lapse to score a great goal for Doncaster. With less than a minute to go Ringwood capitalised on a slick midfield pass which was crossed into the Rovers box and was deflected by a Rovers' player into his own net.

Ringwood got out goal with a miss by Tolmie in the penalty shootout.

★ ★ ★

VICTORIAN LEAGUE Division Two

DONCASTER ROVERS 0 SANDRINGHAM 0

DONCASTER: H. Graham, J. Pcovski, M. Tsambikos, N. Skinner, I. Humble, R. Tolmie, R. Nicolidis, G. Talia, J. Twine, N. Fernandes, P. Spicer, M. Seward, F. Robb.

SANDRINGHAM: N. Drougias, W. Ford, G. Edmondson, D. Stuart,

A. Dillon, J. Cullen, G. McMullen, M. McDonald, J. Tansey, M. Dagnall, J. Nelson, B. Nelson, M. McGorian.

The large crowd at Anderson Park was treated to an entertaining game of soccer with Sandringham's veteran "stars", and Doncaster's youthful aggressiveness.

Ex. Australian international Jim Tansey controlled the spirited Rovers attack like a general, setting up his midfield with pinpoint passes.

Doncaster who where overcome by the skill of Jim Nelson, Tansey, Edmondson and company defended gallantly with Rovers' goalkeeper Hughie Graham saving continued goal seeking forays by the skilful Sandringham attack.

After absorbing most of the pressure in the first half Doncaster broke out of their seige and rained the Sandringham goal with accurate shots and were unlucky not to be a goal up when a chip shot by Robbie Nicolidis was deflected by the crossbar direct to the feet of the Sandringham defenders.

Rovers coach Kris Kalifatidis brought on Seward to mark Nelson and pushed Pcovski into midfield, the tactic proved successful with Rovers matching Sandringham for possession in the second half.

Towards the end of the

★ ★ ★

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE Division One

DIAMOND VALLEY 2 (Coyle 2, 1 pen.) PRAHRAN 1 (Santos)

DIAMOND VALLEY: Hamilton, Drapper, Love, Straubinger, Litchfield, Tucker, Dodd, Kerr, Coyle, Kelly, Beer, Res. McLean, Flaherty.

PRAHRAN: Marino, Rulsio, Sefaralveda, Leiva, Sandoval, Godoy, Santos, Fernandez, Colakoglu, Sandoval, Flores, Res. Mauna, Anderson.

Diamond Valley dominated the first half but failed to capitalise.

A missed penalty and a goal by Prahran's Santos, saw them go in 1-0 down at half-time.

Prahran goalkeeper Marino kept the home side at bay until Valley was awarded another penalty and this time Coyle made no mistake with the spot-kick.

A fine run and cross by Flaherty made the winner for Coyle.

game Sandringham had run out of legs and was glad to hear the final whistle.

Hughie Graham was man of the match for Rovers and Jim Nelson for Sandringham.

seven changes from last season — gave a shaky performance to open the League program. A more workmanlike second half showing contrasted sharply with their wretched first half play but overall can consider themselves a little fortunate in collecting maximum points from an opposition who were never out of the race.

It was indicative of a struggling "South" when Ozyurek found his own net when trying to push the ball for a corner, three minutes from half time.

A quick break by the home side and in a one against one situation Sepetci had little trouble in stroking the ball past 'keeper, Graspas.

The home crowd came to life when Yildirim volleyed on the turn to put the home side in the lead after 73 minutes.

— A.J. Hitchman

★ ★ ★

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE Division 4

RIVERSDALE — FITZROY

FITZROY: T. Fermande, R. Fernandez, J. Alba, J. Cara, J. Medina, L. Berzal, L. Salas, F. Hueso, J. Calle, K. Fernandez, V. San. Res. J. Seoane, A. Gome.

RIVERSDALE: G. Strotchi, W. Walmaggia, G. McCaskie, S. Clarke, D. Dixon, R. McPhee, M. Jencik, P. MacLoy, M. Cherdron, P. Henderson, D. O'Keefe. Res. R. McLatchie, N. Clarke.

1987's two bottom sides, Fitzroy and Riversdale, played off at Fitzroy's Brunswick St. ground and both showed the advantages of their pre-season preparation.

Fitzroy, the eventual winners, played a possession game attacking in numbers through the middle of the Park and dominated for most of the game, while Riversdale's midfield which had worked consistently hard, slumped during the middle of the second half, allowing Fitzroy to stretch a tight Riversdale defence and score the one goal of the game.

Riversdale's forwards revived for the last 10 minutes, climaxing in Ross McLatchies 85th minute drive that rattled the corner of the goalposts and almost gave R'dale the draw, a result that would have seen little argument from either team.

R'dale Reserves won 3-1, their goals coming from K. Pauli, A. Forsyth and H. Whittle.)

★ ★ ★

Soccer Star's

Action-Packed Picture Page



●John Anastasiadis and Lou Theodosopoulos celebrate.



●Thomastown's Gaetano Di Martino and Mike Valenti.



●Arthur Patiniotis.



●Heidelberg's Billy Raynes, left, contests a high ball.



●Heidelberg's exciting new winger, Billy Raynes.



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Paul Kawolski, 18-y-o Skye City Rangers, Bayswater State Representatives.

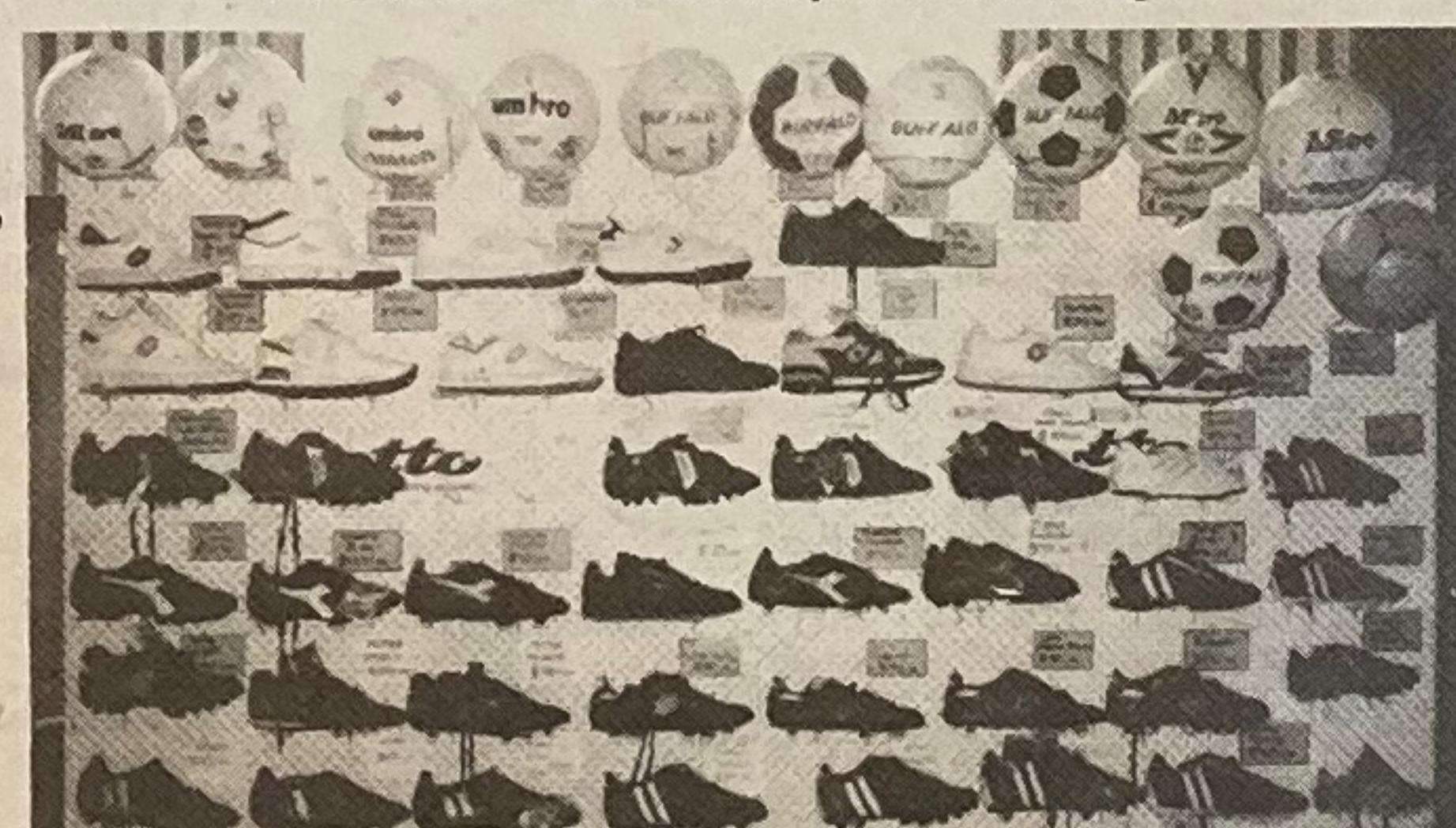
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LEFT: Eric Wilkes blocks Hamish Young last season's O/30's top scorer.

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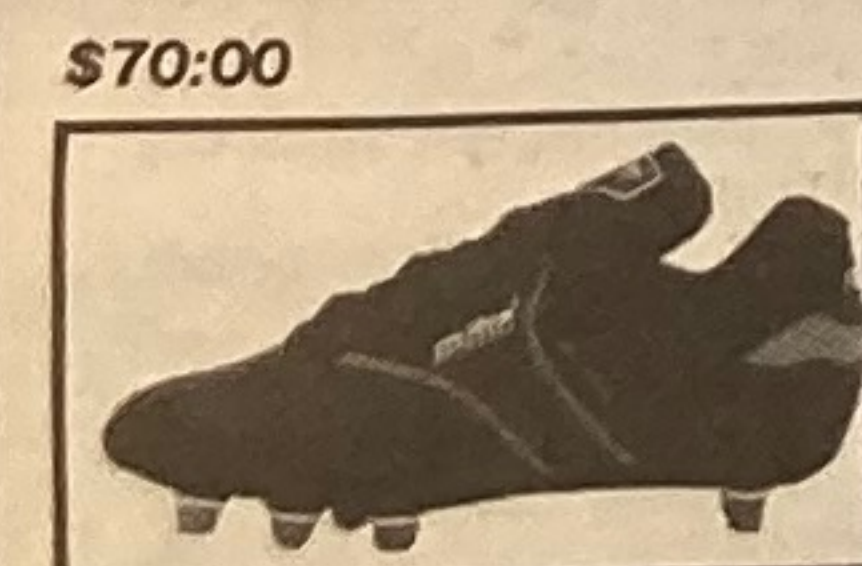
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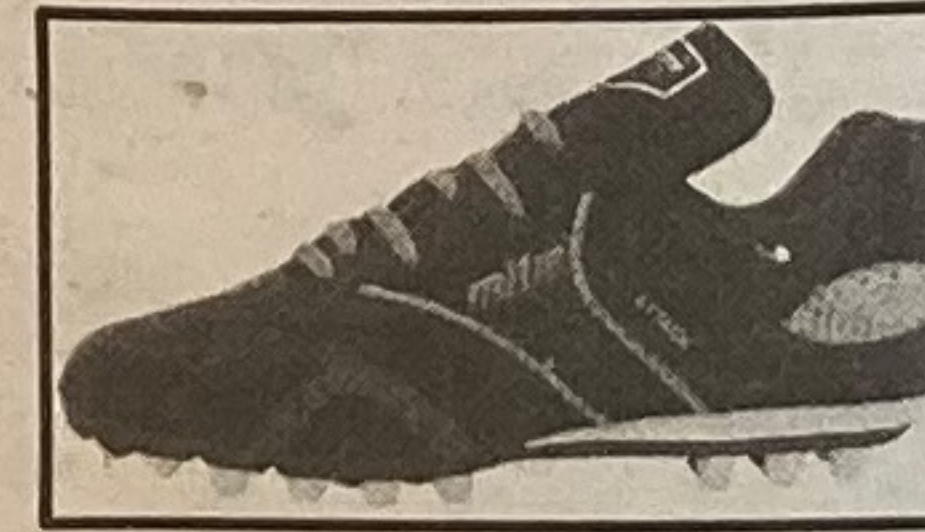
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UK soccer

English division 1: Chelsea 1 Arsenal 1, Coventry 1 Oxford 0, Man United 4 Derby 1, Newcastle 4 Luton 0, Norwich 2, Charlton 0, Nottingham Forest 2, Liverpool 1, Sheffield Wednesday 2, West Ham 1, Southampton 2, Wimbledon 2, Tottenham 0, Portsmouth 1.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Liverpool	21	7	55	32	65
Man U	18	11	55	32	65
Not Forest	17	9	46	21	60
Derby	17	9	46	21	60
Arsenal	15	10	40	22	58
Wimbledon	13	11	50	38	50
Sheff Wed	14	4	41	54	48
Coventry	11	10	40	48	43
Tottenham	11	10	35	43	43
Newcastle	10	12	42	44	42
Norwich	12	6	36	43	41
Luton	10	11	33	44	41
Sheff Wed	8	12	33	45	36
Chelsea	8	12	44	60	36
Derby	8	11	30	40	35
Portsmouth	7	14	29	52	32
Charlton	7	11	16	32	29
Oxford	6	11	16	39	23
Watford	5	9	19	20	24

English division 4: Burnley 0 Wolves 1, Huddersfield 3, Exeter 0, Cardiff 2, Hartlepool 0, Peterborough 1, Leyton Orient 1, Bolton 2, Newport 1, Carlisle 2, Scarborough 0, Southport 0, Swansea 0, Rochdale 3, Torquay 3, Stockport 0, Wrexham 3, Tranmere 0.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Aston Villa	20	10	64	38	70
Middlesbrough	19	11	54	38	68
Blackburn	19	11	54	38	68
Millwall	20	7	61	44	67
Crystal P	19	12	56	47	61
Bradford	18	10	59	46	58
Leeds	17	10	56	47	61
Sheff Wed	16	14	46	57	54
Man City	16	7	55	52	55
Swindon	15	9	52	51	54
Ipswich	15	8	49	45	53
Oldham	14	9	44	57	51
Hull	13	12	48	52	51
Barnsley	14	8	54	52	50
Plymouth	14	7	57	53	49
Leicester	12	10	52	55	46
Sheff Wed	10	13	38	58	43
W Brom	12	6	20	60	42
Sheff Wed	9	13	34	47	40
Sheff Wed	10	9	48	60	39
Sheff Wed	11	6	21	40	39
Reading	8	9	19	51	33
Huddersfield	6	9	22	37	27

English division 2: Birmingham 1 Hull 1, Bradford 1, Barnsley 1, Crystal Palace 3, Bournemouth 0, Huddersfield 1, Manchester City 0, Middlesbrough 6, Sheffield United 0, Millwall 2, Aston Villa 1, Reading 1, Ipswich 1, Shrewsbury 1, Leeds 0, Swindon 3, Leicester 2, West Bromwich 2, Stoke 0.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Sunderland	21	12	67	42	75
Notts C	20	12	61	44	72
Walsall	19	11	64	44	71
Wigan	16	17	70	39	65
Sheff Wed	17	14	8	54	62
Brighton	16	11	67	57	59
Bristol C	16	10	45	48	58
Brentford	16	10	45	48	58

Blackpool

Blackpool 14 13 11 58 47 55, Gillingham 13 15 12 63 54 53, Fulham 15 9 15 59 54 54, Preston 13 12 15 55 54 51, Bury 13 12 15 55 54 51, Bristol R 13 10 14 55 51 49, Mansfield 13 10 15 45 57 48, Chester 12 12 15 45 57 48, Rotherham 10 16 14 45 54 46, Aldershot 13 6 20 57 70 45, Southend 10 15 17 54 75 43, Grimsby 10 12 16 44 62 42, Chester 11 9 19 33 64 42, Doncaster 7 8 24 33 71 29, York 6 8 25 42 78 26.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Blackpool	23	6	58	26	56
St Johns	21	9	53	33	50
Brechin	18	9	51	34	43
O Park	17	9	53	39	42
E Stirling	13	12	46	41	38
Alloa	14	9	49	47	37
Arbroath	10	12	33	55	32
Montrose	11	10	39	43	32
Stenhouse	10	6	42	50	29
Albion	9	10	38	66	28
Cowden	8	11	45	63	27
Bervick	6	15	27	68	14
Stranraer	3	7	24	28	13

Vauxhall-Open League premier division: Barking 2, Tooting 2, Bognor 0, Hayes 2, Croydon 0, Kingstonian 1, Dulwich 5, Hitchin 0.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Waltham	22	8	59	37	74
Cardiff	18	13	54	38	67
S Torpore	17	13	67	44	64
Bolton	18	9	50	37	63
Torquay	17	10	52	34	61
Swansea	17	9	44	35	60
Burnley	18	6	45	48	60
Leyton O	16	11	71	54	59
Darlington	17	8	64	53	59
Hartlepool	15	13	45	62	58
Peterborough	16	9	43	50	57
Colchester	16	8	43	61	56
Wrexham	16	8	43	51	54
Cambridge	16	8	43	51	54
Scarb'gh	14	11	44	45	51
Crewe	12	15	50	44	49
Tranmere	15	6	48	47	49
Halifax	11	10	46	47	42
Stockport	12	17	36	49	42
Rochdale	9	15	41	67	42
Exeter	10	11	44	59	41
Carlisle	10	6	21	48	36
Newport	6	11	20	33	27

Scottish division 1: Dundee 0, Dunfermline 1, Aberdeen 1, Hibernian 0, Celtic 2, Motherwell 1, Morton 0, Rangers 1, Hearts 2, St Mirren 0, Falkirk 0.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Celtic	21	10	47	29	56
Rangers	24	7	53	29	55
Aberdeen	19	15	53	39	53
Dundee U	14	13	45	40	51
Dundee	10	16	38	58	38
Hibernian	10	16	38	58	38
St Mirren	8	15	38	57	31
Motherwell	8	15	30	50	30
Falkirk	9	9	20	33	27
Dunfermline	2	10	27	22	14
Morton	2	10	27	22	14

Scottish division 2: Clyde 0, Hamilton 0, Dumbarton 0, Arbroath 1, Forfar 1, Greenock 1, Mossburn 2, East Fife 1, Queen of the South 0, Clydebank 1, Raith 1, Partick 2.

W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Hamilton	19	11	62	32	52
M bank	19	11	61	28	52
Arbroath	19	11	61	28	52
Clydebank	18	5	42	65	41
Forfar	12	16	31	57	39
Partick	12	16	31	57	39
Queen of the South	12	13	41	61	37
O of Sth	12	13	41	61	37

LIVERPOOL STUMBLES

LIVERPOOL, hoping to clinch the English soccer league title in record time over Easter, was forced to put its champagne on ice by a 2-1 defeat at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Only Liverpool's second league reversal of the season, it resulted from a first-half own goal by Alan Hansen and a second-half effort from England midfielder player Neil Webb.

VICTORIAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Continued From Page 13

South Melbourne Hellas clash on Sunday was played in beautiful conditions in front of over 5000 people, with National Coach Frank Arok present as well, and provided some very good action including a brilliantly taken free-kick converted by Steve Tassios of Hellas.

Understandably, the fact that this clash kicked off later than usual NSL games may have contributed to it not being covered, but I remind you this is only an example of many other similar occasions.

Lift your game SBS, or else proposals such as those made by Harry Michaels of involving commercial networks in soccer coverage will begin to look more feasible as the season drags on.

Eire striker John Aldridge reduced the deficit with a 70th-minute penalty, his 23rd goal of the season, but Forest won this dress rehearsal for next weekend's FA Cup semi-final more comfortably than the score suggests, as Nigel Clough had a 46th minute penalty saved by Bruce Grobbelaar.

Manchester United cut Liverpool's lead at the top to 11 points with a 4-1 home thrashing of struggling Derby, Scotland striker Brian McClair spearheading the romp with a hat-trick to boost his total for the season to 26.

Utility player Colin Gibson also got on the scoresheet, while Derby's solitary response came from Steve Cross.

Another hat-trick man was Newcastle's teenage Northern Ireland international, Michael O'Neill. He inspired his side to a 4-0 home rout of League Cup finalist Luton, the other goal being netted by Paul Goddard.

To increase Derby's woes, fourth-from-bottom Portsmouth won 1-0 at Tottenham to move within two points of the Midlands club with a game in hand. Barry Horne was Pompey's hero.

The victory also lifted the South Coast club over Charlton, following its 2-0 loss at Norwich, which triumphed through Ruel Fox and Kevin Drinkell.

Oxford, second from the bottom, went down as well. An 89th minute goal from ex-England striker Cyrille Regis did the damage.

A last-minute goal also earned Wimbledon a 2-2 draw at Southampton, substitute Brian Gayle doing the trick.

The London derby between Chelsea and Arsenal ended in a 1-1 stalemate, Chelsea midfielder Mick Hazard cancelling out Joe McLaughlin's own goal.

But West Ham lost 2-1 at Sheffield Wednesday, Leroy Rosenior's third goal in as many games for the Hammers coming too late to stop Wednesday claiming the three points through David Hirst and Mark Chamberlain.

Celtic needs just three points from its last five games to celebrate its centenary year as Scottish League champion.

Its 2-0 win at Hibernian on Saturday, coupled with Rangers' 2-1 home defeat by Hearts, leaves the leader with that seemingly undemanding task.

A 25-yard drive from Peter Grant and an Andy Walker header, his 28th goal of the season, stretched Celtic's unbeaten run to 29 games and lifted it eight points clear of Hearts.

The Edinburgh club took over second place from Rangers thanks to goals from Dave McPherson and John Robertson, after the champion had gone ahead through Danish international Jan Bartram.

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● Alan Scott

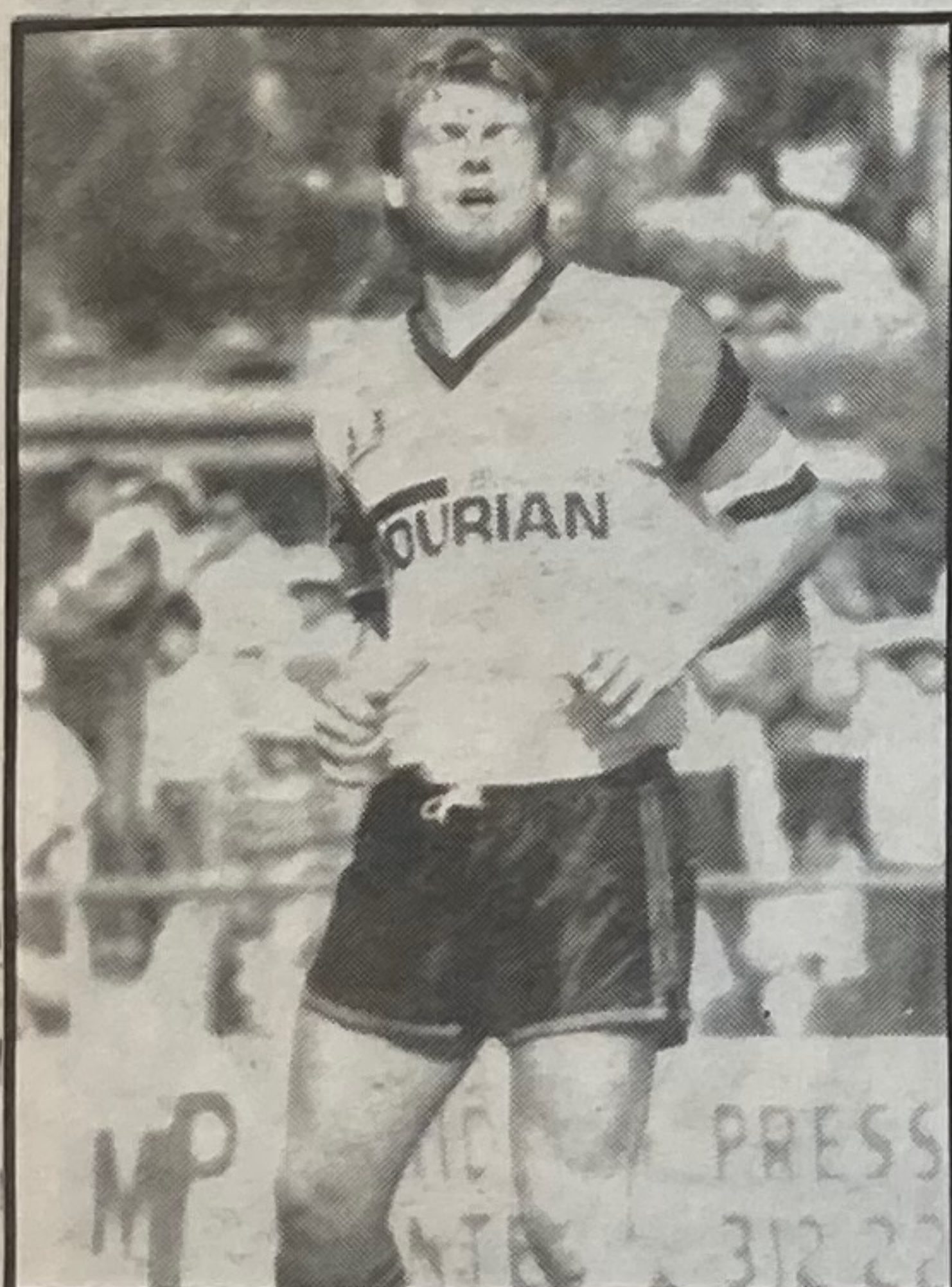
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OLYMPIC PARK

K.O. 2.30 PM



● Abbas Saad



● Steve Jackson

PRESTON MAKEDONIA V APIA LEICHHARDT

CONNOR RESERVE

K.O. 2.30 PM



● Charlie Yankos

ADELAIDE CITY v SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS
OLYMPIC SPORTSFIELD K.O. 2.30 PM

WOLLONGONG CITY v BRISBANE LIONS
BRANDON PARK K.O. 2.30 PM

ST GEORGE v BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS
ST GEORGE STADIUM K.O. 2.30 PM

SYDNEY CROATIA v SOUTH MELBOURNE
CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE K.O. 2.30 PM